

SALUDA NURSING CENTER

581 Newberry Highway Post Office Box 398
Saluda, South Carolina 29138-0705

Robert F. Bowles, NHA
Administrator

August 18, 2008

Mr. Charles L. A. Terreni
Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
PO Box 11649
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia SC 29210

**Re: Rulemaking Regarding Certain Transportation Regulations, Including
Drug Testing for Passenger Carriers – Notice of Drafting Filed with the South
Carolina Legislative Council**

Docket No. 2007-445-A

Dear Mr. Terreni:

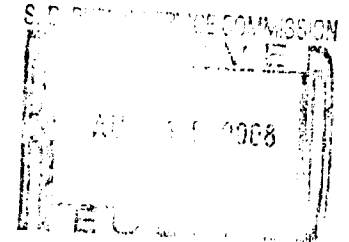
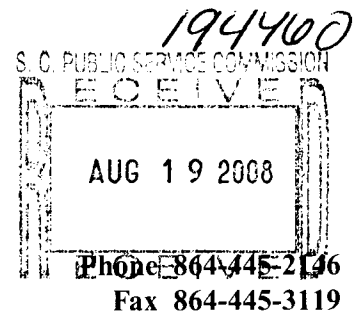
Since my first letter to you dated August 4, 2008, I have been investigating the above mentioned Docket No. The proposal is to allow stretcher vans to transport patients who "do not need medical monitoring".

This letter is to request a new hearing. My investigation has found that there are many people who have an interest in this matter who were not notified of the proposed change or the date of the hearing.

Today we have requested a transcript of the hearing to determine who was actually there to speak on the issue. We also would like to know how individuals were made aware of the issue to speak or respond in writing.

There are few patients for whom the stretcher van would be appropriate. Most patients who require a stretcher are going to have to be monitored in some manner. Especially residents from a nursing home--they are in a nursing home because they do require some degree of medical/nursing monitoring. They may not require a paramedic with those advanced skills, but they do require at least a basic EMT not someone with only first aid skills and training.

I do hope that The Commission will reconsider and allow another hearing. South Carolina is behind in enough areas. We do not need to try to regress in areas where we are proceeding adequately and keeping pace.



Page 2

Letter to Mr. Terreni

Chief Clerk/Administrator

SC Public Service Commission


August 18, 2008

Our state did not wish to go forward with EMS in the late 60's and early 70's until the federal government threatened to withhold major highway funds. Let's not have to be threatened again. This is a matter that as a state we can and should provide for our citizens. We must remain progressive not regressive, proactive not reactive.

Again, please permit a second hearing to allow more data to be presented to The Commission. With accurate data (not the misleading information that was presented by LogistiCare), we can provide cost effective transportation to those who need it without new regulations, new kinds of vehicles, and unnecessary deaths of those unfortunate frail, elderly, vulnerable adults who have helped define SC.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Bowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent part.

Robert F. Bowles, NHA

EMS Director/Administrator